



## International Council of Eelam Tamils அனைத்துலக ஈழத்தமிழர் மக்களவை

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Norway

**Ma Sumanthiran is dreaming about getting the diaspora Tamils who were driven out by Sri Lanka to bail it out from the economic crises. -*International Council of Eelam Tamils*-**

Although the civil war in Sri Lanka ended in May 2009 the military occupation of Tamil lands continues. Sri Lanka's defence spending was expected to decline as there is no imminent threat to the country's defences. On the contrary, Sri Lanka's defence spending has consistently increased now accounting for 15% of the government expenditures. During the civil war, it is estimated that there were 100,000 soldiers in 2009. Currently, it has increased threefold to over 300,000. The military camps are entrenched in Tamil areas forcibly occupying fertile lands belonging to the Tamils.

Military controls all economic activities in Tamil areas with rampant black marketeering and corruption. The Sri Lankan military controls business ventures, construction contracts, civil administration and agriculture to name a few. This keeps over 3.5 million Tamil people under the jackboot of heavily militarized occupation keeping the Tamils perpetually in poverty. The Sri Lankan government is keeping the Tamil population in poverty to keep them fighting for their survival rather than their due political rights! Sri Lanka would not have been facing the current economic crisis if it had genuinely addressed the Tamil National Question.

Against this backdrop, the Tamil Diaspora Organizations requested the TNA to refrain from continually bailing out the corrupt government of Sri Lanka without getting any significant resolution of the Tamil National Question. Unfortunately, it is apparent that the TNA and other political parties seem to ignore these calls and continue to prop up a corrupt regime for their own personal gains. After ignoring our calls to be cautious in dealing with the Sri Lanka Government, we were dismayed to note that Mr. Sumanthiran has claimed to serve as a bridge between the Sri Lanka government and the diaspora organizations. It seems Mr. Sumanthiran has conveniently forgotten his inability to engage with the Tamil diaspora during his recent worldwide tour. Based on Mr. Sumanthiran's track record of frantically escaping the meeting venues through the back door without answering the questions raised by the diaspora Tamils, his offer to the Sri Lanka government is a non-starter.

Over 1.5 million diaspora Tamils fled the island due to the periodic pogroms unleashed on them in 1956, 1958, 1962, 1974, 1977, 1981, 1983 followed by a 30-year war thereafter, and continuous military occupation of Tamil areas until today. Billions of dollars in Tamil-owned factories and businesses were destroyed and burned down to ashes by Sinhala mobs orchestrated by Sinhala politicians, including many of the members in the parliament at present, and Buddhist monks who

led the mobs in the attack against innocent Tamil civilian men, women, and children. The massacre of Tamils is far worse in proportion to their population compared to the current war in Ukraine. No one has been brought to justice because the Sinhala leadership is continuing to protect them. There is no guarantee that another pogrom against Tamils will not happen again once the GoSL is bailed out by the IMF and foreign powers jockeying for a foothold in the island. Against this backdrop,

Mr. Sumanthiran has the audacity to claim to serve as a conduit to diaspora Tamils to bail out a failed state!

Given the seven-decades-long duplicitous track record of Sri Lanka, the Tamil Diaspora will not engage with the Sri Lanka government without the presence of a genuine third party. Based on the last round of 2002 peace negotiations, the Tamil diaspora is not willing to enter into another “Peace Trap” without due diligence!

-International Council of Eelam Tamils-

**International Council of Eelam Tamils (ICET) consist of the following country councils:**

